



Language Access in Schools: Requirements & Resources

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Warm-Up Exercise

**What do NEP, LEP,
& FEP stand for?**

**What does OCR
stand for?**

**What is a Covered
Entity?**

**What does BICS
stand for?**

**What is a
"language
minority" student?**

**What does CALP
stand for?**

**What does LAA
stand for?**

**What does BLAP
stand for?**

**What does LAC
stand for?**



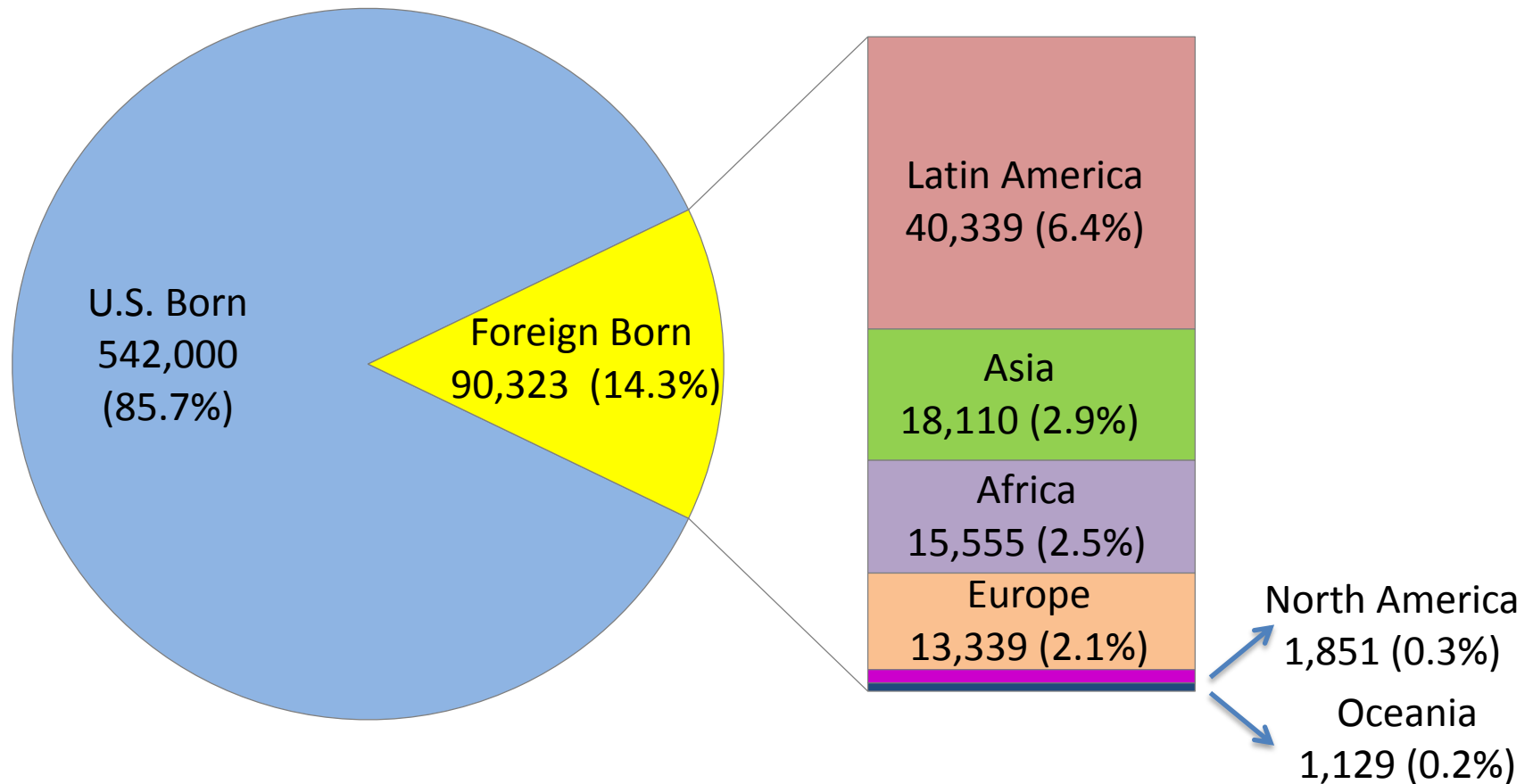
Objectives

By the end of the workshop session, participants will...

- Understand demographic data and linguistic and cultural diversity of the District's immigrant and LEP/NEP populations
- Learn about local and federal laws governing language access provision and understand the latest compliance requirements for traditional and charter public schools
- Be familiar with the systems and resources that need to be in place within individual schools to ensure equal and meaningful access for limited-English proficient students and families



DC Population by Region of Birth (2012)



Source: Based 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) Data



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The District's LEP/NEP Population (2012)

- Total number of DC residents: **632,323**
- Foreign-born population in DC: **90,323 (14%)**
- **15.6%** or 98,434 DC residents speak a language other than English
- **5.4%** DC residents speak English *“less than very well”*
- **2/3** of LEP/NEP households in DC are **linguistically isolated**, meaning no one above the age of 14 years speaks English.
- **One in ten** individuals over the age of 5 in the greater DC area is limited English proficient (LEP)



The District's ELL Students

- About 15% of students in DC public schools are LCD
- About 50% were born in the United States
- The students represent over 130 countries
- Over 100 different home languages are spoken
- Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Amharic, and French are the top five languages represented in DC schools; increasing presence of Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Bengali and Igbo
- Spanish is the predominant home language (70%)
- Wards 1 and 4 have the highest percentage of LEP student residents, but all wards have some LEP students represented



Federal Education Requirements

- Under federal law, all children in the US, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to a free and appropriate public education.
- Whether the school has 1 or 100 ELL students, schools are required to develop a program that not only teaches English to ELLs, but also addresses grade-level academic content.
- While there are rigorous federal requirements regarding the components of a language support program, school leaders also have significant flexibility in designing that program.
- Schools are also required to communicate with families in the language they understand.



Federal Education Requirements

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states:

“No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Title VI has been interpreted to require that school districts receiving federal financial assistance must provide language support services for non- and limited-English proficient students to enable them to participate effectively in the regular instructional program AND for families to be actively engaged in their child’s education.



District of Columbia Language Access Act

- The **D.C. Language Access Act** was enacted on April 21, 2004
- The purpose of the Act is to provide **greater access and participation** in public services, programs, and activities for the District's LEP/NEP constituents at a level equal to that of English proficient individuals
- The **Language Access regulations** were amended to include charter schools and went into effect in October 2014
- The Language Access Act, and related information, is available at <http://ohr.dc.gov/page/languageaccess>



Language Access Act Applies To:

- **Covered Entity** – any District government agency, department, or program that furnishes information or renders services, programs, or activities directly to the public or contracts with other entities, either directly or indirectly, to conduct programs, services, or activities.
- **Covered Entity with Major Public Contact** – a covered entity whose primary responsibility consists of meeting, contracting, and dealing with the public.
- **Funded Entity** – typically a public service organization that has received government funds to provide services to the community.



LA Act Highlighted Requirements

All Covered Entities, including Funded Entities, must:

- Identify a Language Access Point of Contact
- Collect data on primary languages spoken
- Translate vital documents into languages that meet the threshold of 500 customers or 3%, whichever is less
- Provide interpretation services (e.g., Language Line)
- Train all public contact staff
- Report annually on encounters and services provided to LEP/NEP customers



LA Act Highlighted Requirements

Major Public Contact Agencies must:

- Designate a Language Access Coordinator (LAC) and team
- Submit a Biannual Language Access Plan (BLAP)
- Translate vital documents into languages that meet the threshold of 500 customers or 3%, whichever is less
- Provide interpretation services (e.g., Language Line)
- Train all public contact staff
- Report quarterly on the BLAP to include encounters and services provided to LEP/NEP customers
- Hold public meetings and conduct outreach



Typical Challenges

- Collecting and reporting the total number of encounters
- Providing translated vital documents that are easily accessible to the public
- Providing Language Access training to staff on a regular basis
- Recruiting, hiring and/or identifying existing bilingual staff
- Providing language assistance via telephone to callers with inquiries
- Providing simultaneous interpretation for meetings and events



Resource: “I Speak” cards

I Speak Chinese.

I need assistance and have the right to receive assistance in my spoken language. Please provide me with an interpreter and note my spoken language in your permanent records. Thank you.

District law requires that agencies provide you with information and assistance in your language for free. If you do not receive help in your language, please call the DC Office of Human Rights at (202) 727-4559 and press 0.



www.ohr.dc.gov



我说的是汉语普通话。

在口述交流过程中，我有需要并且有权利接受帮助。请为我配备一位译员并在记录中说明在日后的交流中我将使用汉语普通话。

地区法律规定相关机构必须免费向您提供语言方面的信息与帮助以消除交流障碍。如果您未得到相关帮助，请联系哥伦比亚特区人权办公室，电话：202 - 727 - 4559，接通后按 0。



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Resource: Language Display Boards



Interpretation Services Available

English Translation: Point to your language. An interpreter will be called. This interpreter is provided at no cost to you.

Arabic العربي أقر إلى اللهك. وسوف يتم جلب مترجم فوري لك. سنبذل لك مترجم الفوري مجاناً.	Korean 한국어 귀하께서 사용하는 언어를 지적하시면 해당 언어 통역 서비스를 무료로 제공할 예정입니다.
Armenian Հայերէն Ձեր լեզուն ո՞րն է: Եթե՛ն ձեր լեզունը հայերենից է, կարգի՛նք ձեր լեզվով հայերենից կը տարجمարտի անհմար.	Laotian ລາວ ພົມມະສາດສິດທິພົມມະສາດ ສະກະດິດຈາກພາສາລາວ ສຳນັກຂ່າວສະບັບນີ້ຈະມີການໃຫ້ການບໍລິການ.
Cantonese 廣東話 請您認明語言， 以便為您提供免費的傳譯服務。	Mandarin 國語 請您認明語言， 以便為您提供免費的口譯服務。
French Français Pointez vers votre langue et on appellera un interprète qui vous sera fourni gratuitement.	Polish Polski Proszę wskazać swój język i wezwemy tłumacza. Tłumacza zapewnimy bezpłatnie.
German Deutsch Zeigen Sie auf Ihre Sprache. Ein Dolmetscher wird gerufen. Der Dolmetscher ist für Sie kostenlos.	Portuguese Português Indique o seu idioma. Um intérprete será chamado. A interpretação é fornecida sem qualquer custo para você.
Hindi हिन्दी अपनी भाषा या शीत बरें और एक मुफ्तिल बुलाया जाएगा। मुफ्तिल का प्रकाश आप या शीत बिंदी का है शीत बात है।	Russian Русский Укажите язык, на котором вы говорите. Вам будет предоставлен переводчик. Переводчик предоставляется бесплатно.
Hmong Hmoob Txw rau koj hmoob hau. Yuav hau rau ib tug noog txhais hau. Yuav noog noog txhais hau yam rau koj hau rau them dab txi.	Spanish Español Señale su idioma y llamaremos a un intérprete. El servicio es gratuito.
Italian Italiano Puntare sulla propria lingua. Un interprete sarà chiamato. Il servizio è gratuito.	Tagalog Tagalog Ituro pu ang inyong wika. Ilang tagapakin ang ipagkakaloob nang libre sa inyo.
Japanese 日本語 あなたの話す言語を指して下さい。 無料で通訳を提供します。	Thai ไทย ภาษาอังกฤษไม่พูด แล้วเราจะจัดหาคนให้ท่าน การใช้ท่านไม่ต้องเสียค่าใช้จ่าย
Khmer (Cambodian) ខ្មែរ / កម្ពុជា សូមបង្ហាញភាសា ។ យើងនឹងប្រើប្រាស់ប្រធានប្រែភាសា ឥតគិតថ្លៃដល់អ្នកប្រើប្រាស់នេះ។	Vietnamese Tiếng Việt Hãy chỉ vào ngôn ngữ của quý vị. Một thông dịch viên sẽ được gọi đến, quý vị sẽ không phải trả tiền cho thông dịch viên.

*This provided language list is based on 2017 - 2020 Census data. Additional languages and dialects may be in use but not listed here.





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Resource: Translation & Interpretation

- www.language.com – for telephonic interpretation
- <http://www.translationequipment.com> – information about interpretation equipment
- <http://www.dcmp.org> – approved vendors for captioning
- Citywide Blanket Purchase Agreements – for translation and interpretation services (including ASL)
- Examples of translation service pricing:
 - Amharic \$0.28/Word or \$85.00/page
 - Chinese \$0.25/word or \$75.00/page
 - French \$0.18/word or \$65.00/page
 - Korean \$0.20/word or \$70/page



Your Turn

QUESTIONS?



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Follow-Up

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